in Southern Manchuria, on the site in Honan of what seems to have been an extensive village, in Kansu near Lanchowfu, and as far west as Kokonor, have been disclosed relics of what appear to be different stages of the same culture (sometimes called—especially that in Honan—by the name Yang Shao). Some of the objects are probably (although not certainly) the prototypes of implements and utensils still manufactured and in common use in China. Most of the skeletal remains of the Yang Shao culture that have been uncovered seem to be of the same stock as that of the Chinese who to-day inhabit the region. The evidence points, therefore, to some racial and cultural continuity between that age and our own. Whether any of this culture was indigenous is uncertain. We are not even sure that it is an early stage of historical Chinese civilization. Tracing a line of descent has been difficult. The latest stages of Yang Shao culture may have persisted into the third dynasty, the Chou. It seems clear that a great gulf separated this Yang Shao civilization from that of the Shang, the second of the traditional dynasties. There was also a hard, black pottery culture. Many lived in villages of partly subterranean dwellings which were enclosed by earthen walls. Millet, possibly derived from India, was the most common grain. There were horses, pigs, dogs, sheep, and cattle. The painted pottery culture seems to have antedated that of the black pottery. The bronze culture of the Shang began later than either. Sericulture was present in neolithic times and continued into the Shang.

A still earlier link in the chain is a few traces of paleolithic man, chiefly in Shensi and Mongolia. Between the

paleolithic and the late stone or early bronze age no connecting stage has been found, and since some of the paleolithic relics are beneath a heavy mantle of loess the gap in time is probably very considerable. We do not know whether the paleolithic remains were left by the ancestors of the present Chinese, by a people whom the Chinese conquered or displaced, or by stocks which disappeared long before the ancestors of the Chinese entered North China. There seems to be some similarity between the products of paleolithic man in China and those in other parts of Europe and Asia —possibly indicating cultural connection.

The problem of origins is further complicated by the discovery, in recent years, near Peking, of bones (including skulls) of a stili